

State/Territory: Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Date: Oct 23, 2019

PDG B-5: 3rd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Needs Assessment – AIR

Completed literature review and analysis of best practices, of existing federal and state, needs assessments. The purpose of the literature review focused on gathering information in the early childhood care and education (ECCE) field that could address required federal domains and questions that would not be answered by other project tasks (i.e., Task 2, analysis of existing needs assessment, and Task 3, stakeholder focus groups) Recruitment of stakeholders to conduct external focus groups and analysis of the needs assessment. AIR is using a multipronged approach. AIR is reaching out to key contacts based on GOECD advice as well as AIR's contacts and expertise in the field. Locations are confirmed for three focus groups representing different parts of the state: Chicago, Naperville, and Granite City, Illinois.

Cost Modeling - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center

Completed staffing patterns for a basic licensed program, a Gold-rated program, and an enhanced program. (Note: Enhanced program includes comprehensive services, such as those required by Early Head Start/Head Start, Preschool for All/Prevention Initiative, and best practices.) These staffing patterns include classrooms of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. For preschoolers, we have developed staffing models for both school-day (school-based) as well as a full workday.

Developed staff salary schedules and benefits/fringe rates for each type of program. Salary schedules were developed to reflect parity across the early childhood education profession. To ensure parity, salaries were collected from local school districts, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Salary & Staffing survey, as well as surveys from childcare providers around the state. The salaries are differentiated based on geography (1.05 x base salary for Chicago metro area and 0.9 x base salary for the rest of the state). The geographical differentiation is aligned with the Illinois school funding formula. As part of the salaries, we included benefits/fringe for staff.

Unduplicated Count - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center

Executed data sharing agreement between ISBE, DHS, and NIU. Initiated transfers of data from ISBE and DHS to NIU CGS team. Scheduled initial call with Head Start stakeholders regarding data systems' next steps, issues, and challenges.

Performance Measurement Plan - IECAM

Staff currently working to (1) communicate with each strategic plan partner regarding their objectives and suggested metrics; (2) develop an overall chart of suggested metrics/indicators for each major "bucket" of the strategic plan (e.g., Kindergarten Transition); and (3) populate

each of these “buckets” with metrics in conjunction with the desires and suggestions of each partner.

2. Problems

Needs Assessment – AIR

As a result of the State of Illinois laborious procurement system, the execution of the contract for the vendor was delayed, therefore impacting the timeline for the work plan. Although the initial goal was to complete needs assessment work within 6 months, due to the late contract date, the partner had to expedite the process, which shifted the overall deliverable schedule.

Recruitment for the two focus groups (scheduled in Chicago on October 15 and Naperville on October 24) has been challenging. Few invitees to date have responded to requests for participation.

Cost Modeling - Northern Illinois University’s Education Systems Center

Requires more guidance on what to include in the final report and if it should be coordinated with the statewide cost model beyond our current coordination.

Unduplicated Count - Northern Illinois University’s Education Systems Center

Challenges regarding the structure of data from selected Head Start grantees engaged by CPRD for Child Plus pilot and the need for data system-specific engagement with DHS

Performance Measurement Plan - IECAM – N/A

3. Significant findings and events:

Needs Assessment - AIR

Approved No Cost Extension Jan 2020. Significant findings to date include the gaps that emerged in the preliminary review of existing needs assessments (e.g., the lack of definitions of key terms, information on facilities).

Cost Modeling - Northern Illinois University’s Education Systems Center

Meeting with Ajay Chaudry, the author of Cradle to Kindergarten: A New Plan to Combat Inequality and a national expert on early childhood cost modeling. We presented the components of our model, the specific salary & staffing patterns, as well as assumptions made in the model. He agreed with all the aspects of the model and gave further validation that the model is sound.

Unduplicated Count - Northern Illinois University’s Education Systems Center

Ongoing conversations around longitudinal data systems, including the key recommendations of the P-20 Council’s Education and Workforce Data Task Force, the recent SLDS application and the upcoming PDG B-5 renewal application.

Performance Measurement Plan – IECAM

Approval No Cost Feb 2020, need a final strategic plan which is also included in no cost to create a data dashboard.

4. Dissemination activities:

Needs Assessment – AIR

A handout describing the work plan and timeline for the strategic planning project was created and disseminated to GOECD staff and other stakeholders. Meeting with the Illinois Early Learning Council (ELC) Data, Research, and Evaluation (DRE) Committee on September 12, 2019, to provide details on the project.

Cost Modeling - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center – N/A

Unduplicated Count - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center - NA

Performance Measurement Plan – IECAM – N/A

5. Other activities: N/A

6. Activities planned for the next reporting period:

Needs Assessment - AIR

- Complete external Focus Groups and Analysis
- Complete Research Plan
- Complete Final Needs Assessment Document

Cost Modeling - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center

- Develop a set of options for coordinated program funding enough to meet the goals and requirements of the individual early childhood care and education funding streams and support access to care and adequate educator compensation.
- Finalize recommended options into a report to the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Unduplicated Count - Northern Illinois University's Education Systems Center

- Assess the current status of data transfer (contingent upon execution of DSAs) and/or identify barriers to successful transfer
- Test and clean transferred data. (Note: Task to commence pending completion of data transfer from DHS, ISBE, and/or City)
- Schedule regular meetings/calls through 12/19 re: agency data barriers (per initial call, as needed)
- Per initial data testing and validation by the NIU CGS team, loop in NIU CGS staff to discuss identified data quality issues
- Link child data with program and geographic data. (Note: Task to commence pending completion of prior tasks)
- Draft and share tentative work plan (through spring 2020) re: mitigation of identified barriers

Performance Measurement Plan – IECAM

Continue to work in conjunction with AIR, NIU, the DRE, and GOECD to continue identifying data to populate (1) the metric chart for the strategic plan and (2) the Dashboard

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Activity 2: Strategic Plan

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Strategic Plan – AIR

AIR co-planned with the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) a strategic planning meeting with all GOECD vendors contracted (priority focused activities) with the state to contribute to the final strategic plan; held on September 23, 2019. As a result of the meeting, the focused areas within the Strategic Plan, identified goals and barriers to start the initial draft of the strategic plan. We have identified key priority areas to be embedded into the overall strategic plan, which includes the following: (KDG transition recommendation, Inclusion policy, and systems recommendation, PD alignment recommendation, coordinated intake for home visiting, increasing enrollment of children in welfare, into home visiting services)

Governance – AIR

AIR has met with and coordinated work with vendors supporting other state initiatives related to governance, such as (1) the Boston Consultant Group working for the Illinois early childhood finance commission and (2) Foresight Law + Policy, which lead a session on state governance that GOECD participated in. Wrote a preliminary finding memo for the client on the governance models reviewed for the 10 states. Developed a sample pool for potential national experts to interview, based on GOECD's suggestion and AIR's expertise.

Currently, interviewing national experts on governance models to address the gaps found in the document review and asking questions about governance implementations. The results from the interview will be incorporated into the final deliverable.

Key Priority Areas/ Strategic Plan:

Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report Facilitation - YWCA

YWCA developed a selection criterion to identify a LEA to pilot a KDG transition recommendation. The selection criterion included: connected collaboration to DECC, KIDs assessment results, superintendent that has an Early Childhood background, level of LEA interest in being a participant in the pilot, size of the district, and years of experience as a superintendent. As a result, Bensenville District 2 was identified and selected to pilot the KDG transition recommendation. MOU was created and outlined with roles and responsibilities of D-KTAC team, School District, and the Early Childhood Collaboration. The expectation of pilot LEA

defined and support by the identified and selected planning team. The first LEA Workshop meeting with the pilot team was held on October 1, 2019, in which conversation was held about what current transition practices are already in practice to learn what is working and what needs improvement.

Inclusion Strategic Plan - SASSED/ Early CHOICES

Refine key issues on inclusion policies, share with ELC Inclusion Subcommittee for feedback, refine key issues and bring back to core group, engage with larger Strategic Plan working group to present initial recommendations and barriers, preparing final draft to be submitted and included in final strategic plan.

Professional Development Coordination – Consultant/ Sara Beach

Meetings (in-person and by phone) were conducted with a variety of PD stakeholders and partners during the past two months. Information about the state's PD systems collected, including the scope, funding, key players, target audiences, identifiable gaps in services, and duplications. As a result of meetings and inquiry across, multiple partners and stakeholders, it has become clear that there are cross-system commitment and desire for not only more alignment, but for integration in some places. There is a strong wish for more collaboration at higher levels (funding decision-makers) to promote, incentivize, or even mandate cross-sector collaborations. Three (3) PD System Webinars were conducted and completed on; October 15, October 17, and October 21st. The intent and purpose of the webinars were to update stakeholders on the initiative and collect additional input, ideas, and perspectives from various stakeholders.

Coordinated Intake – GOECD Staff MIECHV - Deborah Hwang & Joanna Su

One major activity/accomplishment was reconvening the Regional Points of Entry workgroup (renamed as the Coordinated Intake for Home Visiting workgroup) and scheduled two meetings in September and October to help inform the development of the coordinated intake (CI) strategic plan. The first meeting focused on receiving guidance on how to organize CI sites throughout Illinois for statewide coverage, such as aligning with existing early childhood systems boundaries or community collaborations. The second accomplishment was engaging in conversations with Illinois' Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&Rs) system to potentially consider building the CI system onto CCR&Rs.

Increase Child Welfare Enrollment /Home Visiting - DCFS-Erikson

In this planning year, the primary deliverables include establishing relationships with home visiting programs; establishing a protocol for communication between the child welfare and home visiting providers; and develop a referral process that works efficiently. To this end, we have visited providers in Cook, Southern and Northern regions. Programs Visited: (dates and locations

Cook- Maryville (Recovery Home) 9/3/19, Southern Region- Stronger Beginnings for Families, 9/26/19, Wash Area Development Head Start/ Early Head Start, 10/2/19, Northern Region- Child & Family Development (Project HELP) YWCA Metropolitan Chicago 9/19/19, Health Family Programs (Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness Center) 9/20/19, Winnebago County Health Development, 9/24/19, Community System Development Subcommittee, 9/19/19.

In addition to meeting with potential providers, the following were also completed: designed and drafted a new policy demonstrating collaborative efforts between DCFS Child Welfare and Coordinated Intake/ MIECHV, submitted Home Visiting Expansion Proposal to support statewide work, created flow chart for referral processes and developed interview tool to be used by Home Visitors when meeting with providers.

2. Problems

Strategic Plan – AIR – N/A

Governance – AIR – N/A

Key Priority Areas/ Strategic Plan:

Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report Facilitation - YWCA

Due to time constraints, it was challenging to get administration and other private pre-K providers as well as administration and other collaboration partners to attend the first session on October 1st and they were not able to attend.

Participants found that the language in KDG Report was difficult to understand. The group did their best to interpret according to what would work in their local context. The planning team made initial requests of the LEA to work on the deliverables as outlined in the original contract and later must change the agreed dates to adapt to new due dates being moved up at GOECD's request to ensure compliance of PDG B-5 grant deliverables. Changing deadlines for activities is challenging when teachers were willing to attend the afterschool planning meetings as the school district can pay them out of other funds. This makes the district go back and spend more time trying to coordinate with 15-17 individuals and reconsider the budget and time allocations.

Inclusion Strategic Plan - SASSED/ Early CHOICES – N/A

Professional Development Coordination – Consultant/ Sara Beach

Due to the change in target date for a report to AIR as part of the strategic plan, webinars were planned as a replacement for face to face focus groups, with the intent to gather additional feedback.

Coordinated Intake – GOECD/MIECHV - Deborah Hwang & Joanna Su

While there are no problems, there have been challenges in engaging with other states that have a similar socio- and geographical landscape with a statewide CI system, to provide best practice and cost estimates for IL's statewide CI system. Finding a database system that fulfills the function of a CI system while interfacing with other early childhood providers continues to be a challenging aspect of the plan.

Finally, identifying funding sources is still in progress. Other states have developed their CI system through or alongside their health department, with plans to obtain funding from the health department. This is not feasible for Illinois as there is loose unification in the governance of the health departments, and a formal partnership between the two systems has yet to be established.

Increase Child Welfare Enrollment /Home Visiting - DCFS-Erikson

Home visiting programs have expressed concerns regarding their capacity to serve families referred from child welfare. A few agencies lack support regarding the referral process. Also, the lack of transportation for the families and homelessness in the Southern and Northern regions. It's always challenging when we find a provider who is not willing to support child welfare, but we continue to make connections with those that are ready and continue to assess whether the less interesting programs can shift in terms of their thinking about our clients.

3. Significant findings and events:

Strategic Plan – AIR

Approved No Cost Extension Feb 2020. The strategic planning meeting with all vendors on September 23, 2019, was a major event. During this event, participants co-created the strawman outline for the strategic plan.

Governance – AIR

Met with leaders from the Illinois Governor's office that GOECD reports to, to discuss the project. Submitted a preliminary findings memo of other state governance models. Met with and coordinated work with vendors supporting other state initiatives related to governance: the Boston Consultant Group working for the Illinois early childhood finance commission and Foresight Law + Policy.

Key Priority Areas/ Strategic Plan:

Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report Facilitation - YWCA

In requesting that the district sign the Partnership Agreement, there was a concern that there is no funding directly to LEA, and they would have to supplement the cost of bringing teachers together to meet outside of school hours. Future considerations would allow time for the district to consider the possibilities and provide a possible budget to move forward or provide in-kind hours of voluntary support.

The participants shared the following:

- The language of the report seemed high-level and did not seem to support practitioners.
- Some of the recommendations were confusing and seemed to have more than one activity in the same sentence.
- The organization of the report was difficult to understand as it was not labeled clearly making the report challenging for the reader to follow.
- Transition practices varied from school to school and practices were not consistent district-wide.
- Comments on needing significant administrative support to implement transition practices in the form of flexibility and scheduling.

Inclusion recommendations for Strategic Plan - SASSED/ Early CHOICES

The contractor has been working and reviewed, analyzed, and coalesced existing data and information. Reviewed and analyzed policy statements from the various professional organizations as well as IDEA Part B/Part C and coalesced information. We have begun to engage stakeholders in 0-5 systems

Professional Development Coordination – Consultant/ Sara Beach – N/A

Coordinated Intake – GOECD/MIECHV-Deborah Hwang & Joanna Su

The CCR&Rs are well-positioned to take on the CI system as they already have in place the infrastructure that is needed for a well-functioning CI system. The CCR&Rs also provide a connection to the larger early childhood services while a CI system would increase the CCR&Rs access to families, specifically prenatal through age 3.

Increase Child Welfare Enrollment /Home Visiting - DCFS-Erikson

Approved No Cost Extension Feb 2020. In some regions, homelessness and /or lack of basic resources overshadow the need for home visiting supports. Also, in general, the DCFS workers lack knowledge about HV supports, and similarly, HV programs lack pertinent information about the CW system.

4. Dissemination activities:

Strategic Plan – AIR

- A handout describing the work plan and timeline for the strategic planning project was created and disseminated to GOECD staff and other stakeholders.
- Meeting with the governor’s staff (Jesse Ruiz and Irma Snopek) on July 31, 2019, provided an overview of the project.
- Meeting with the Illinois ELC Data, Research, and Evaluation (DRE) Committee provided details on the project.

Governance - AIR

Disseminated an informational handout describing the project work plan and timeline to GOECD staff and other stakeholders.

Key Priority Areas/ Strategic Plan:

Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report Facilitation - YWCA

E-mail notification sent to the Steering Committee on the pilot LEA selection – Bensenville School district 2. Announcement at DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration (full partnership) meeting on 9/27/2019 of pilot LEA selection.

Inclusion Strategic Plan - SASSED/ Early CHOICES – N/A

Professional Development Coordination – Consultant/ Sara Beach

Invitations to PD Systems Webinars (focus groups via webinar) were disseminated to Professional Development partners and providers at the Sharing a Vision Conference in Peoria on October 3,4, and 5. Additionally, these invitations were disseminated to partners at the Ounce of Prevention, Early Childhood Professional Learning, ISBE, Starnet, IAFC, Early CHOICES, INCCRRA, CCR&Rs, ILHSA, ILAEYC, NLU, Erikson Institute, IL State U, and U of IL.

Coordinated Intake – GOECD/MIECHV-Deborah Hwang & Joanna Su – N/A

Increase Child Welfare Enrollment /Home Visiting - DCFS-Erikson

Project information was disseminated through the email lists of the Home Visiting Task Force and the GOECD e-newsletter, as well as through the provider meetings.

5. Other activities: N/A

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Strategic Plan – AIR

- Draft Strategic Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement Activities
- Final Strategic Plan

Governance – AIR

Implementation Plan and Recommendations

Key Priority Areas/ Strategic Plan:

Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee Report Facilitation - YWCA

- Using the feasibility rubric, the Bensenville team will identify those practices that can be piloted in Bensenville school district.
- Co-draft implementation plan for Bensenville school district KTAC report recommendation to be whom pilot implementation would be feasible, relevant, and applicable to local context and data.

Inclusion Strategic Plan - SASSED/ Early CHOICES

Engage with Strategic Plan Vendor to review final recommendations

Professional Development Coordination – Consultant/ Sara Beach

- PD Cross System Recommendations Report
- Design PD Cross Systems Spreadsheet

Coordinated Intake – GOECD/MIECHV-Deborah Hwang & Joanna Su

Create and submit recommendations for the strategic plan to expand coordinated intake for Home Visiting services.

Increase Child Welfare Enrollment /Home Visiting - DCFS-Erikson

Pilot newly developed referral and tracking processes in Cook. Based on feedback, restructure the process before expanding to the downstate regions of IL.

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Activity 3: Parent Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Family Governance – GOECD

Hosted planning meeting with the core group to discuss current and future planning processes for the Early Learning Council (ELC) Family Advisory Committee. Working with ELC on establishing membership number for Family Advisory Committee (FAC) representation. Created and obtained feedback on Parent Membership Application for FAC.

ExceleRate Website – INCCRRA

Pricing for translation is complete. A consultant has reviewed the existing ExceleRate website for compliance with accessibility guidelines and standards.

Sunshine Website – DCFS

The technology department will work in including content in alternative languages (Spanish). The department is discussing a third language-Polish language. Workgroups have been assigned to review a protocol for future website revisions. Information related to monitoring and violations enhanced-discussions is in progress, related to enhancing and adding various other components that expand and capture aggregated data as needed.

Parent Café's - DHS & Illinois Head Start Association

Hosted planning meeting to discuss parent cafés and coordinate goals of Illinois Head Start Association with Gov. Off. Of Early Child. Dev. IHSA is in process of hiring staff personnel that will create facilitation guides for parent leaders and parent cafés. IHSA has begun seeking parent leaders and informing directors about parent cafés to find both parent leaders and parent attendees.

Homelessness Resource Directory and Toolkits - Illinois Early Learning Project (IEL)/UIUC

IEL Team worked together to take resources identified for inclusion in the tool kit and to begin to lay them out for production on the website. Identified six organizing tabs (Introduction, Identifying Families, Basic Needs, Educational Rights, Well-Being, and Resource Directory for Illinois Parents) that will be used to provide structure to the tool kit resources and assist website visitors in navigation. IEL staff produced podcasts about the impact of trauma and on listening to family voices in early childhood programs. These were specifically recorded for the homeless tool kit. Tip sheets in development on Educational Rights of Homeless Families and the second tip sheet is conceptualized as a one page "tracker" aimed at helping families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity know possible people or agencies they may turn to for support and have "on their team", as well as help them track those important telephone numbers and contacts.

Inclusion – Early CHOICES

Early CHOICES partnered with EI to update EI transition/inclusion video and translate to Spanish for families. Meeting held with the Least Restrictive Environment PD workgroup to review existing family resources and discuss recommendations to update and/or create new resources. Exploring partnerships with Family Matters, Family Resource Center and others for sharing of and building additional resources

2. Problems

Family Governance – GOECD

Difficult to move forward without funding /budget for parent engagement support (ie can't hire statewide coordinator, parent reimbursement for travel, childcare, etc).

ExceleRate Website – INCCRRA & Sunshine Website - DCFS

There cannot be a direct link to the monitoring report without some modifications to the Sunshine website.

Parent Café's – DHS & Illinois Head Start Association

Due to the contract being signed late, work was on hold, causing a delay with the startup.

Homelessness Resource Directory and Toolkits - Illinois Early Learning Project (IEL)/UIUC

IEL Meeting with Homeless Liaisons from ISBE has not occurred, due to awaiting funding from ISBE confirming updated contracts for Homeless Liaison providers.

Inclusion – Early CHOICES – N/A

3. Significant findings and events:

Family Governance – GOECD - N/A

ExceleRate Website – INCCRRA & Sunshine Website – DCFS

Approved for No Cost Extension Feb 2020.

Parent Café's – DHS & Illinois Head Start Association

Approved No Cost Extension Jan 2020.

Homelessness Resource Directory and Toolkits - Illinois Early Learning Project – N/A

Inclusion – Early CHOICES – N/A

4. Dissemination activities:

Family Governance – GOECD - N/A

ExceleRate Website – INCCRRA & Sunshine Website - DCFS - N/A

Parent Café's – DHS & Illinois Head Start Association

IHSA has informed directors about parent cafés to recruit both parent leaders and parent attendees.

Homelessness Resource Directory and Toolkits - Illinois Early Learning Project (IEL)/UIUC

The IEL team attended the Illinois Developmental Therapy Association Conference and shared our resources at an exhibit table. As we are highlighting the new tool kits on attendance and kindergarten, we are letting visitors know that the toolkit on Homelessness that is being developed in partnership with the GOECD is going to be available in December. We will continue to share this information at upcoming conferences during our sessions and our exhibit tables.

Inclusion – Early CHOICES – N/A

5. Other activities: N/A

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Family Governance – GOECD

- Meet with the core group for continued updates.
- Explore options related to contracts, subgrants and RFPs for hiring statewide coordinator (which option would be fastest?)
- Determine membership number for FAC on ELC
- Report out and receive feedback from larger Family Engagement Implementation Subcommittee (FEIS)

ExceleRate Illinois Website - INCCRRA & Sunshine Website – DCFS

Continue working with a consultant to review existing content and requirements. As part of the review, the consultant will note how often the required content needs to be updated and identify who currently holds the responsibility for updating. The anticipated completion of this consultant work is November 2019.

Parent Café's – DHS & Illinois Head Start Association

- Create a timeline for completion of parent leadership manual
- Secure dates for conducting parent leadership Institutes.

Homelessness Resource Directory and Toolkits - Illinois Early Learning Project (IEL)/UIUC

- Webinar scheduled Dec 5, 2019, with researchers from Chapin Hall in Collaboration with the Early Intervention Training Program.
- Share a preliminary view of the tool kit resources in process in late October/Early November on live IEL website
- Meet with Homeless Liaisons to allow for feedback on the tool kit design and resources
- Share information about tool kit resources that are in process at the Sharing a Vision Conference in East Peoria in October during the IEL session and seek additional venues at conferences and through the state early childhood networks to share the toolkit once it is completed in December

Inclusion – Early CHOICES

Execute disseminate plans on inclusion-focused public awareness resources and training materials for families by Dec 31st.

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Activity 4: Sharing Best Practices

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Community System Portal - DHS & INCCRRA

Held several calls with the co-chairs and staffer of the Early Learning Council's Community Systems Development (CSD) Subcommittee to familiarize them with the project and confirm their participation as the main body from which we will gather stakeholder engagement throughout this process. Built out wireframe and wrote copy for all site pages for the website, including the form fields for the feedback loop and shared content with INCCRRA web developers in preparation for contract execution to begin work on the project.

The CSD Subcommittee is requesting GOECD's support in presenting this idea to their parent committee, the Integration & Alignment Committee of the Early Learning Council.

Family & Friend Provider Support - Illinois Action for Children

Conducted six focus groups (3 in Cook, 1 in Moline, 1 in Peoria and 1 in Cairo). Developed and administered a demographic survey to focus group participants. Completed focus group evaluation report and presented focus group findings. Convened team members to review focus group findings and compiled a list of recommendations and developed training topics and support options. Recruitment of focus group participants targeted FFN providers who care for children under the program Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) (50 participants with 48 responses). In Cook County, Good Shepherd Center, Carole Robertson Center for Learning and Centers for New Horizon hosted and recruited FFN providers for focus groups, including one conducted in Spanish. Elsewhere, partnering Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, John Logan College, SAL Family, and Community Services and SAL Child Care Connection recruited FFN providers for three focus groups in Alexander, Rock Island, and Peoria counties.

I/ECMHC Data System - INCCRRA

Finalized requirements for the I/ECMH Consultant searchable statewide database. A consultant has been identified and is contracted to begin work on the searchable database.

FAN Community of Practice (CoP) Project - Erikson Institute

Hosted two Community of Practice training, one at Erikson Institute for Chicago-area professionals on August 30, 2019, and one in Rockford on September 6, 2019. 22 professionals were representing both non-profit agencies and school district programs. The Sept 6th, training was attended by 26 participants representing school district and health department programs. Both meetings covered the topic, "The Role of Repair in Home Visiting".

2. Problems

Community System Portal - DHS & INCCRRA

Delay in the execution of the contract (Sept 2019) caused a slow start in beginning the work.

Family & Friend Provider Support - Illinois Action for Children

There is a great challenge for communities that lack basic resources to survive. There has to be more innovation around how we served the hardest to reach. Whether it be providing mobile training, resources, etc., it's going to be very important for long-standing partnerships to be developed to ensure the viability for providers and families in under-resourced communities. We may have to consider a mileage radius for communities that lack resources, regarding participating in on-site training.

I/ECMHC Data System – INCCRRA

One of the sustainability costs raised during the 9/13 meeting was around ongoing training on how to do the data entry.

FAN Community of Practice (CoP) Project - Erikson Institute – N/A

3. Significant findings and events:

Community System Portal- DHS & INCCRRA- N/A

Family & Friend Provider Support - Illinois Action for Children

FFN providers raised several points in the focus groups, that are useful for the design of provider training and other supports:

FFN providers asked about their motivations for providing care. “Distrust of others” was the most frequent response. Providing stability and support for the parent was the second most common theme. Additional responses included providers wanting to be an influence in the child’s life, and parents not having other options because of their nontraditional work schedules.

FFN providers described an array of supports that could help them in their caregiving. Their most common response was that they need more activities to do with the children. Providers wanted more outdoor activities or activities to help children learn. Some providers reported not feeling safe going outside to play and wanted more activities to do at home.

I/ECMHC Data System – INCCRRA – N/A

FAN Community of Practice (CoP) Project - Erikson Institute

Participant feedback from both CoP events was enthusiastically positive. Participants shared having gained insight as to how commonly mismatches occur in relationships, and how important the capacity to repair is in maintaining a connection. Participants also expressed an increased understanding of repair skills, power dynamics, cultural dynamics, and the role of repair in supervision as a result of the training. They also expressed the desire to have additional practice in the work of repair, more examples, and more discussion.

4. Dissemination activities:

Community System Portal- DHS & INCCRRA – N/A

Family & Friend Provider Support - Illinois Action for Children

- Provided CCR&R partners and training partners fliers (developed by the IAFC marketing department) to disseminate for outreach to providers to participate in the focus groups
- Provided the internal management team with a project overview to get a full understanding of how each department can support the project and ensure successful outcomes

I/ECMHC Data System – INCCRRA – N/A

FAN Community of Practice (CoP) Project - Erikson Institute

Participants were given handouts of phrases that can be used to help repair situations where mismatches occur. Participants were also given a FAN Yearbook containing 12 activities to be used onsite at staff/team meetings to assist in deepening FAN practice.

5. Other activities: N/A

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Community System Portal- DHS & INCCRRA – continue to work with GOECD to finalize deliverable

Family & Friend Provider Support - Illinois Action for Children

- Complete design phase evaluation report
- Identify FFN providers to participate in training
- Training to be provided on topics
- LEM's trained and conduct home visits
- Support FFN providers with finding resource information
- Develop a tool to assess the fidelity of training and design
- Compile training and support delivery evaluation report

I/ECMHC Data System – INCCRRA

- Confirm data fields for consultant activity tracking.
- Develop application form for consultants that wish to be approved for listing on the searchable database.
- Work to develop the data system to enable tracking of “approved” consultants. Conduct internal testing on the components developed.
- Begin work on developing the activity tracking component for consultants

FAN Community of Practice (CoP) Project - Erikson Institute

The FAN and Caregiving Partners (Training)

- Erikson Institute, Chicago: December 9, 2019; 9:00am – 12:30pm
- Rockford Public Library, Rockford: December 3, 2019; 1:00pm – 3:30pm

The Role of Repair in Home Visiting, and The FAN and Caregiving Partners (Training)

- Chestnut Health Systems, Normal October 24, 2019; 9:30am – 12:30pm
- Champaign Public Library, Champaign November 6, 2019; 9:30am-12:30pm

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Activity 5: Improving Overall Quality

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Materials & Supplies - INCCRRA & DHS

Planning complete for each of them including Supplies & Materials for Infant/Toddler Classrooms, Supplies & Materials for Home-Based Infant/Toddler Programs, Credential Fee Reductions and Tuition Reimbursement.

College Cohorts INCCRRA & DHS

Analysis report and interviews with colleges and centers completed

CQI Communities of Practice – INCCRRA & DHS

Meeting held with DHS to identify selection process for at least 6 regions to participate in the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Communities of Practice (CoP), considering region sizes may vary based on local conditions. The CoPs will be designed to help site-based program leaders implement the CQI Components outlined by GOECD and ExceleRate Illinois in the document "What Does a Program Leader Do?".

Credentials and Tuition Reimbursement INCCRRA

ISBE contract with INCCRRA signed Sept 2019. INCCRRA has met with GOECD and is drafting guidelines for fees to be reduced. Tuition reimbursement: INCCRRA is revising the application procedures and materials, based on its administration of a similar program under Race to the Top.

2. **Problems:** – N/A

3. **Significant findings and events:**

Approved for No Cost Extension Feb 28, 2020

4. **Dissemination activities:** N/A

5. **Other activities:** - N/A

6. **Activities planned for next reporting period:**

Materials & Supplies - INCCRRA & DHS

Disperse funding.

College Cohort - INCCRRA

Share the report with providers and colleges and disseminated to policy and practice audiences.

Communities of Practice – INCCRA

- GOECD will provide discussion topics and a guide for CoP meetings
- Complete CCR&R staff orientations
- CoPs hold 4 meetings each

Credentials and Tuition Reimbursement - INCCRRA

Disperse funds.